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DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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FROM : DIRECTOR
TO : MEXICO CITY
TITLE : CABLE: HSCA DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR GARY CORNWELL
ACCOMPANIED BY HSCA STAFFERS.
DATE : 07/21/1978
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DIRECTOR 261323

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STAFF 212354Z DIRECTOR 261323
TO: IMMEDIATE MEXICO CITY INFO IMMEDIATE DIRTECH.

NIACT MEXICO CITY.

WNINTEL RYBAT

REFS: A. DIRECTOR 224314 (NOT IN CDS, COPY SUPPLIED UPON REQUEST)
B. DIRECTOR 229921 (NOT IN CDS, COPY SUPPLIED UPON REQUEST)

1. HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATION (HSCA) DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR GARY CORNWELL ACCOMPANIED BY HSCA STAFFERS HAROLD LEAP AND EDWIN LOPEZ ARRIVING MEXICO CITY 24 JULY 1978 (VIA AA, ETA 1245) TO CONTINUE INQUIRIES THERE. POUCHING UNDER TM 126289 ENVELOPE CONTAINING HSCA MATERIAL. PLS HOLD FOR THEIR ARRIVAL.

2. ISSUE OF DIRECT HSCA ACCESS TO AGENTS HAS CONTINUED UNSETTLED, WITHOUT RESOLUTION. DCI AND DDCI HAVE OFFERED HSCA INDIRECT RPT INDIRECT ACCESS, WHEREBY MEMBER OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'S STAFF SERVES AS GO-BETWEEN, CONVEYING HSCA QUESTIONS TO AGENTS AND AGENT REPLIES TO HSCA. THIS FORMULA UNACCEPTABLE TO HSCA. DCI HAS REPORTED THIS ISSUE TO HIGHEST AUTHORITY AND HAS RECEIVED HIS SUPPORT ON POSITION OF NO RPT NO DIRECT ACCESS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WILL TRY TO DEVELOP PROCEDURE WHEREBY ANSWERS TO HSCA CAN BE OBTAINED WITHOUT DIRECT CONTACT WITH AGENTS. THERE IS TENTATIVE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO UTILIZE SECURE TELEPHONE (OR OTHER VOICE COMMO) AND/OR CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (WITH DARKENED ROOM TO OBSCURE DETAILS AND APPEARANCE OF AGENT). WOLOCK TECHNICIAN TRAVELLING MEXICO CITY 24 JULY 1978 ON ANOTHER MISSION, WILL BRING TELEVISION, EQUIPMENT. WOLOCK SENDING SEPARATE MESSAGE THIS SUBJECT. ASSUME TECH WILL NEED ASSIST THROUGH MEXICAN CUSTOMS. THIS EQUIPMENT BEING SENT TO SIMPLY ASSURE AVAILABILITY OF FEASIBLE SYSTEMS IF WORKED OUT WITH HSCA.

2. CAPTAIN NILES R. GOODING (USN, RETIRED), WHO NOW ASSIGNED INSPECTOR GENERAL STAFF, HAS BEEN SELECTED TO SERVE AS GO-BETWEEN FOR HSCA. HE WILL BE ARRIVING MEXICO CITY ON 24 JULY 1978 VIA

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BRANIFF NO. 51, ETA 1315 HOURS. CAPT. GOODING TRAVELLING ON EITHER TOURIST PASSPORT OR TOURIST CARD AND WILL CONTACT COS ON ARRIVAL. CAPT. GOODING WILL WORK WITH STATION AND HSCA ON DETAILS OF INTERVIEWS. HE IS FAMILIAR WITH THE LIMITATIONS ON HOW FAR TO GO WITHIN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE. IT HEADQUARTERS INTENT TO CONDUCT INTERVIEWS IN HOTEL ROOMS AND REQUEST STATION RESERVE TWO ADJACENT RPT ADJACENT TWO-ROOM SUITES IN MODERATE PRICE HOTEL FOR PERIOD 24 JULY THROUGH 28 JULY. CAPT. GOODING WILL OCCUPY ONE OF THE SUITES AND RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE FOR ONE SUITE IN HIS NAME. IF SUITES UNAVAILABLE REQUEST FOUR ADJOINING SINGLE ROOMS THAT HAVE COMMON DOOR ENTRY BETWEEN ROOMS. ALSO REQUEST THAT STATION PROVIDE CASE OFFICER WITH DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT TO ACT AS TRANSLATOR AND ESCORT FOR CAPT. GOODING.

3. HSCA DESIRES INTERVIEW FOLLOWING FORMER AGENTS: LICOOKY/1; LITAMIL/7; LITAMIL/9; RAYMOND H. GERENDE (P); LIONION/1 AND FORMER UNWITTING AGENT LICHANT/1. ALSO, FORMER CONTRACT AGENT EDWARD G. TICHBORN (P) AND LIHUFF/1. HSCA ALSO DESIRES INTERVIEW GENERAL JOSE JESUS CLARK FLORES AND NOE PALOMARES, NEITHER OF WHOM HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH US ACCORDING TO HQS RECORDS. WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DATA AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATIVE TO CONDUCT OF INTERVIEWS IN SEPARATE CABLE.

4. REQUEST STATION ATTEMPT DETERMINE IF PERSONS MENTIONED PARA 3 ARE STILL IN MEXICO AND ADVISE IMMEDIATE.

5. SINCE CAPT. GOODING DEPARTING EARLY MORNING 24 JULY, WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD PROVIDE NAME OF HOTEL AND ROOM NUMBER HE WILL BE OCCUPYING BY COB 22 JULY. IF SUITE UNAVAILABLE FOR 24 JULY, REQUEST SINGLE ROOM AT BRISTOL OR GENEVE FOR NIGHT 24 JULY.

6. FYI: SINCE WE ARE NOT RPT NOT AWARE AT THIS TIME IF HSCA HAS COORDINATED THIS VISIT WITH STATE DEPARTMENT AND MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, REQUEST COS ADVISE AMBASSADOR, INCLUDING TDY VISIT CAPT. GOODING.

7. WILL ADVISE CONCLUSIONS REACHED WITH HSCA FOLLOWING EARLY MORNING MEETING AT HQS ON 22 JULY 1978. IN THE MEANTIME WOULD WELCOME ANY STATION SUGGESTIONS WHICH WOULD IMPROVE ABOVE PROCEDURES AND CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER OPERATIONAL SECURITY.

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END OF MESSAGE

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